United Nations A/HRC/29/G/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 July 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 1 July 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to draw the attention of the Office to the following.

The Permanent Mission has learned that the press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ("'Commission of inquiry'" Report: Cynical political travesty that undermines human rights") which it had submitted for circulation as one of the official documents of the Human Rights Council has been subjected to unprofessional modifications that the Mission considers to be a forgery. In this act, the following two paragraphs have been added from a DPRK document that has changed the whole content and spirit of the press statement:

> We are fully ready for any confrontation with the U.S. and will shatter the reckless "human rights" racket by the hostile forces through our toughest reaction.
>
> The moves of the hostile forces to dare provoke the socialist system of the DPRK which was chosen and has been consolidated by the Korean people will not be able to escape disgraceful doom.

The myth to relate Eritrea with the DPRK as part of the deliberate efforts to disinformation and blackmail on Eritrea are not at all new attempts. The Mission deplores the unprofessional act and can hardly believe that the above insertions are genuine mistakes.

The Permanent Mission would also like to inform the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council that the forged document was quoted and disseminated by some media outlets, organizations and individuals that continuously work to tarnish the image of Eritrea for other ulterior political motives under the guise of human rights.

In the event, the Permanent Mission kindly requests the Office:

1. To take corrective measures by replacing the said document with the original press statement as sent by the Mission in PDF and Word versions;

2. To issue a public statement denouncing the unprofessional act so as to prevent further similar acts and to correct the wrong image portrayed of Eritrea by the media in general and social media in particular;

3. To investigate the case and to hold those responsible to account, and to further communicate the findings and actions taken to the Eritrean Permanent Mission, members of the Council and the wider public;

4. To kindly circulate the present note verbal and its attachments as an official document of the Human Rights Council.

The following documents* are attached:

- Original press statement (annex I)
- Annex I to document A/HRC/29/G/6 (annex II)

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex I

[English only]

Original press statement

"Commission of inquiry" report: Cynical political travesty that undermines human rights

The People and Government of Eritrea finds the wild accusations leveled against them by the "Commission of Inquiry" established by the Human Rights Council of "systematic and gross violation of Human Rights" totally unfounded and devoid of all merit. These accusations are simply a continuation and escalation of politically motivated campaign to undermine the political, economic and social progress the country is making, including in the area of human rights. They are an attack, not so much on government, but on the civilized people and society who cherished values and dignity.

These accusations and the despicable attempt to silence those who have anything positive to say about Eritrea are a transparent attempt race time to impede the increasing and increasingly productive international engagement with Eritrea. Clearly, the resort to extreme charges and indecent hyperbole, including cynical and unwarranted reference to "possible Crimes against humanity," is intended to forestall a sober reflection of the reality in Eritrea and to rush matters and force the issue before fairness and injustice can prevail. It is also undeniable that there are those who will hide behind these outrageous claims to whitewash their transgressions against Eritrea to seek pretext acts to destabilization.

Eritrea has consistently stated that as nation born in struggle for human Rights, in remains fully committed to ensuring and enhancing the human rights of its people, to improving the quality of life of all its citizens. It is a telling indictment that in the region under severe threat from violence, gross abuse, extremism and terrorism, where so many commit so many crimes, the sponsors of the Commission chose to attack peaceful, stable, harmonious, human development-focused Eritrea. They need to be forcefully challenged and held accountable as their actions and lack of integrity and professionalism undermine human rights institutions as well as regional peace and stability. Eritrea, accordingly calls on all nations and on all people who value fairness, justice and human rights to demand an end to the travesty that is perpetrated by "Commission of Inquiry".

For Eritrea the current attacks aimed at undermining our sovereignty and progress are a matter of Déjà Vu. We were denied our right to independence as a former colonial country because of the perceived "strategic interests" of the United States. Few supported us during our legitimate struggle for freedom. The powerful tried to denigrate our cause and bombed us into submission. We were routinely written off. And yet, by dint of our determination and humanity, we immerged victorious.

Today, despite the vile slanders and false accusations despite a deafening international silence in the face of the illegal occupation of our land in violation of international law, despite economic pressures and encouragement of illegal migration, our resolve and confidence that we will build a dignified and prosperous nation remains unshaken.

Eritrea will not be diverted from that lofty objective and will redouble its determination and efforts to achieve it.

Annex II

[English only]

Annex I to document A/HRC/29/G/6

Press statement

"Commission of inquiry" report: Cynical political travesty that undermines human rights

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